IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9 and 10, as shown in the detailed listing set forth below of all claims which were, or are, in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus to assist a patient's respiration by delivering air to a patient through a mask, comprising:

a blower to provide the patient with air under a treatment pressure,

a control unit to adjust the pressure delivered by said blower at the level of said mask,

a ramp module connected to the control unit in order to provide the control unit with a value of pressure P_M to settle at said mask, so that when said apparatus starts functioning, the pressure progressively rises until the pressure of treatment P_T the rise of pressure until the pressure of treatment P_T corresponding to a ramp period; and

a comparator connected to the ramp module, at least one means for detecting the patient's breathing parameters during said ramp period and sending them to said comparator such that the comparator

is able during this said ramp period to determine whether an event (E_1, E_2 or E_3) occurs in patient's breathing based on said breathing parameters and to send the corresponding data to the ramp module which provides the control unit with a value of pressure P_M that will speed up with respect of time during this said ramp period, so that the rise of pressure at patient's mask is accelerated within the same said ramp period ~~time when the ramp is activated~~.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ramp module provides the value of pressure ~~P_m~~ P_M being a linear function of time wherein an increase coefficient K_{RP} is constant, said ramp module increasing that coefficient of a constant value K_E when the control unit sends a data corresponding to said event (E_1, E_2 or E_3).

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the value of pressure P_M has always maximum and/or minimum limits so that the increase of pressure is also limited in minimum and/or maximum.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said ramp module comprises a memory where a minimum coefficient K_{SRP} is stored, said ramp module always maintaining the

coefficient K_{SRP} equal or greater than said minimum coefficient K_{SRP}, so that the ramp module provides the control unit with a value of pressure P_M always greater than a minimum limit.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said ramp module comprises a memory where a maximum coefficient K_{MRP} is stored, said ramp module always maintaining the coefficient K_{RP} equal or less than said maximum coefficient K_{MRP}, so that the ramp module provides the control unit with a value of pressure P_M always less than a maximum limit.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for detecting the patient's breathing parameters enable the control unit to compute the airflow at patient's mask, said comparator determining whether an event (E_1, E_2 or E_3) is occurring with the airflow parameters or shape.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ramp module increases the value of pressure P_M when an anomaly in patient's breathing is detected.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said anomaly is either snoring or apnea.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ramp module increases the value of pressure P_M when the patient's breathing parameters correspond to a drop between awake breathing and asleep breathing or when they correspond to a stable frequency of breathing.